

small sea changes:

# BIG Infrastructure Impacts

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URBAN & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS

A workshop to explore improved management of Gulf assets through better understanding of coastal hazards.

Friday, November 13th, 2009

ExxonMobil Exploration Corporation, 233 Benmar Street, Houston, Texas



Early registration for the event is highly recommended.

For more information visit: [www.oceanleadership.org/iwgoo/houston](http://www.oceanleadership.org/iwgoo/houston)

This workshop is sponsored and organized by the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observations and the following organizations:





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of Gulf assets through better understanding  
of coastal hazards.**

The Gulf of Mexico region is exposed to a unique combination of coastal hazards. Hurricanes, rising sea levels and temperatures, extreme precipitation, and a subsiding coast pose substantial and growing risks to infrastructure offshore and on land. Extensive offshore facilities and a highly developed low lying coastal region mean that coastal hazards have large safety and economic implications.

Long-term changes in resilience and environmental conditions, not captured in historic records, are driving the need for a risk based approach to engineering design and increasing the need to achieve benefits from improved observations and forecasts that support long-term asset management.

By better understanding the connections between the oceans and weather we can improve predictions of when and where severe weather will strike. Reducing the uncertainties in projections of changes in climate and sea level can significantly improve strategies for safe and economic infrastructure design and the long-term management of existing and future assets.

A sustained Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) enhancing, coordinating and connecting information at global, regional, national and local scales is a key to unlocking these benefits.

The workshop will provide delegates with:

- A review of coastal hazards and their impact on offshore and land infrastructure;
- An introduction to strategies for accommodating uncertain long-term environmental trends into engineering design and asset management;
- An understanding of the importance of long-term ocean observations in monitoring regional change;
- An exploration of how global and national ocean observations can drive improvements in regional weather forecasts and climate projections;
- An opportunity to network with scientists, engineers and asset managers across a range of relevant disciplines and sectors.

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